

Thanksgiving speaks to the heart of the American experience.

Whatever our background, whatever our experience, whatever our difficulties, we have reason to be thankful and a specific time dedicated to expressing thanksgiving as a nation.

As a legislator, I am grateful for all of the American patriots I am privileged to know: the men and women of the Second District who write me thousands of letters about the issues of our day, and my colleagues whose ideas spark intense debate on the best path for our country to take.

I believe the best course for our country involves re-examining the expectations we have for government, returning government to the limited role our nation's founders intended, getting spending under control and beginning the process of paying down our collective debt. Over the last several years, I've seen proposals I strongly disagree with become law and wiser measures fail.

In a Constitutional Republic with democratic elections, such as ours, there is - and I hope will always be - vigorous debate over the direction and future of our country. Patriots exist across political lines and geographic boundaries. For all the disagreements, I am thankful for so many men and women who care deeply about the future of America and who so sincerely desire its welfare.

I am reminded of President James Madison's words, when he proclaimed Thanksgiving Day one hundred and ninety-five years ago:

**THANKSGIVING DAY 1815**

**BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA – A PROCLAMATION**

The Senate and House of Representatives of the United States have by a joint resolution signified their

No people ought to feel greater obligations to celebrate the goodness of the Great Disposer of Events of

It is for blessings such as these, and more especially for the restoration of the blessing of peace, that I

Given at the city of Washington on the 4th day of March, A.D. 1815, and of the Independence of the Un

**JAMES MADISON**

Echoing those grateful thoughts, I look forward to the opportunity to continue to represent  
*you*  
in Congress. I am honored for you to share your views with me on any issue at any time.